



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

June 25, 2002

MR ERNIE LAZAR
POST OFFICE BOX 423434
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94142 3434

✓ Subject: MASON, HATLEY NORTON SR

FOIPA No. 0929497- 001

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3) _____
- _____
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- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☒ (b)(7)(C)
- ☒ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
- ☐ (k)(2)
- ☐ (k)(3)
- ☐ (k)(4)
- ☐ (k)(5)
- ☐ (k)(6)
- ☐ (k)(7)

30 page(s) were reviewed and 26 page(s) are being released.

☒ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

☒ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.

☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown,



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts
Release

Subject: MASON, HATLEY NORTON Sr.

F B I

Date. 5/5/58

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL REGULAR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-10187-49)

FROM: SAC, RICHMOND (105-704)

SEGREGATIONRACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

Transmitted herewith are original and six copies of a letterhead memorandum, also copy for Norfolk, containing information regarding a permanent committee organized in Richmond on May 3, 1958 to help plan private segregated schools in Virginia. This group is known as the Co-ordinating Committee to Maintain Efficient Education in Virginia.

ROCHE

- ③ - Bureau (62-10187-49) (Reg. Mail)
1 - Norfolk (62-502) (Reg. Mail)
1 - Richmond (105-704)
CFH/mw
(5)

23 MAY 7 1958

52 MAY 19 1958

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

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UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-32909 -



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 105-704

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

May 5, 1958

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

The May 2, 1958 issue of the "News Leader", Richmond, Virginia, reported that Robert B. Crawford of Farmville, Virginia, president of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties, which was identified in the article as a statewide organization of segregationists, called a conference to discuss possible operation of private schools by citizens from the five localities involved in federal court orders to segregate public schools. Crawford announced that several citizens from each locality would meet on Saturday, May 3, 1958 in the Hotel Jefferson, Richmond, Virginia, to exchange ideas on how to set up a private school system.

The article quoted Crawford as stating "some people are frightened at the idea of operating schools for an entire division, but there may be just one school at a time, if it comes to that and we hope it won't. We want to save the public schools as long as possible, but the people will close them rather than have integration forced on us."

The article reported further that Prince Edward county of Virginia, already has the backing to form private schools and the northern Virginia area is also organized for this purpose.

The "Times-Dispatch", Richmond, Virginia, in its issue dated May 4, 1958, reported that a permanent committee was established in Richmond on May 3, 1958 to help Virginia localities threatened by integration to set up and operate private school facilities. The article stated that the 19-man group named itself the Co-ordinating Committee to Maintain Efficient Education in Virginia. The article reported Lewis S. Pendleton, Jr., an attorney, Richmond, Virginia, was elected chairman.

1 auto Copy
5/14/58

62-101087-49-30
ENCLOSURE

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

According to this article, the organization announced it will aid parent-teacher associations or any other group which may want to establish private schools in the event public facilities are closed.

It noted that reporters were barred from the four-hour session, but the group issued a statement saying "several avenues of future action were explored with considerable optimism."

The article stated Robert H. Crawford, Farmville, Virginia, who called the meeting said the avenues included the possibilities of teaching private-school children over closed-circuit television broadcasts.

The committee said that at the outset it will work with organizations from the five Virginia localities which have been ordered by federal courts to desegregate their schools. These communities are Charlottesville, Newport News and Norfolk, and the counties of Prince Edward and Arlington.

The article noted a private educational organization was established several years ago in Prince Edward county and a similar organization is being formed in Arlington. It noted that the Prince Edward corporation apparently will serve as a model for groups wishing to organize such corporations.

Crawford stated that representatives of a number of counties not yet affected by segregation cases have visited Prince Edward, and several officials of the Prince Edward corporation have spoken to groups in other counties.

The article noted that most of the committee members who attended the meeting yesterday were residents of the five localities which have been ordered by the courts to desegregate their schools. It noted that many of the committee members are affiliated with the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties.

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

The article identified the following as attending the meeting in addition to Crawford and Pendleton:

J. Barry Wall and Charles W. Glenn,
Prince Edward; ✓
E. J. Oglesby and T. K. Mahone,
Charlottesville; ✓
Jack Rathbone, Charles W. Carter and
H. P. Raden,
Arlington; ✓
Worth Martin, Anderson Smith, William
McL. Ferguson and Richard McMurren,
Newport News; ✓
Charles Jennings, Harvey White, E. H.
Ford, William McKendree and Coleman
H. Coley,
Norfolk; ✓
Dr. H. Morton Mason,
Richmond. ✓

The article stated the original 19 members represent only a core and a spokesman said the group has not set a limit on its membership.

The article quoted Crawford as stating he was delighted at the attendance at the meeting and "pleased with the optimism and determination to keep Virginia's schools operating as they are now operating--on a racially segregated basis."

The article reported that former Governor William E. Tuck and Congressman Watkins M. Abbitt, of Virginia, met with Crawford at the close of the above meeting. The article reported that they said they were in accord with the objectives of the committee and it quoted Abbitt as stating "I am sure the organization will be of tremendous help to localities and the people involved." The article noted that neither Tuck nor Abbitt attended this meeting but both expressed hope that the federal courts would not take any action which would precipitate the closing of public schools.

RE: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

According to the article, Crawford was reported stating that the committee is anxious to maintain public schools and quoted him as saying "we talked only about last-resort measures if a showdown comes we want each community to have the benefit of sober thinking. We hope the new committee will minimize any danger of ill-advised or unfortunate moves." Crawford when asked to elaborate said the committee felt a community should not take any steps which might embarrass other communities or the state. He said "this is all unprecedented. Any community attempting to set up private schools without working out the details—housing, finance, transportation, curriculum and teachers—might mean a temporary failure." He also stated everything must be organized to avoid failure. The article quoted Crawford as asking "in any crisis as serious as this isn't there always the danger of a community using the wrong method to prevent something?" Crawford said he did not mean to imply violence in using the term, wrong method. He was quoted as stating "we must avoid any unfortunate incidents of violence."

The article concluded with a statement of Crawford saying that it was the feeling of the committee that "we'll never have to replace our public schools. I still have great faith that we can continue to operate our schools on a racially segregated basis."

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-101387-49)

DATE: 5/15/58

FROM : SAC, Norfolk (62-502)

SUBJECT: SEGREGATION
RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA
(NORFOLK DIVISION)

ReBulet to Richmond dated 1/14/58 and Norfolk letter to the Bureau dated 4/18/58.

The original and six copies of a letterhead memorandum bearing on the racial situation in the Norfolk area are being submitted to the Bureau, in the event the Bureau desires to disseminate.

Copies of the letterhead memorandum and of this communication are furnished Richmond for information.

I. Legal Action Relative to Desegregation of Public Schools

On 5/9/58 [redacted] U.S. District Court, Norfolk, Va., advised SA [redacted] that there had been no entries on Norfolk Civil Docket #2214 and Newport News Civil Docket #489 (school desegregation cases) since the last entry of 10/25/57.

II. Officers of Organizations which May Become Involved in Racial Situations

The "Newport News Times-Herald" dated 5/5/58 contains an article entitled "4 Area Men on Segregated School Group", which reflects that a state-wide coordinating committee, which promises aid to groups and local organizations in establishing private school systems, should public schools be closed through racial integration, met. The article indicated that the Coordinating Committee to Maintain Efficient Education in Virginia was organized on the previous Saturday (5/3/58) and presumably would focus its early work in five communities where Federal Court edicts pose an immediate crisis - Newport News, Norfolk, Charlottesville, Arlington County, and Prince Edward County. Members of this committee from the Newport News area were named as:

2-Bureau (Encl.-7) (Registered)
1-Richmond (105-704) (info.) (Encl.-1) (Registered)
1-Norfolk
LWK:JG.
(4)

ENCLOSURE

1cc retained
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MAY 15 1958

MAY 16 1958

SEC. 1

EXP. PROC.

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W. WORTH MARTIN
ANDERSON D. SMITH
WILLIAM M. FERGUSON
RICHARD MC MURRAN

*Members of Coordinating
Committee to Maintain
Efficient Education in Virginia*

The article further indicates that ROBERT B. CRAWFORD, of Farmville, Prince Edward County, president of the DEFENDERS OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, another pro-segregation group, had called the Saturday meeting. The article reflects that after a four-hour closed session, CRAWFORD said many avenues of setting up private instruction had been discussed, including the possibility of teaching over closed circuit television. The article reflects, "Apparently the private educational unit known as the Prince Edward Corporation will serve as the model for any other local groups. A similar unit is being formed in Arlington."

The news article indicates, "Like CRAWFORD, many of the committee members are affiliated with the Defenders."

LEWIS S. FENDLETON, JR., a Richmond attorney, was named chairman of the group, and the other members were listed as:

J. BARRY WALL
CHARLES W. GLENN
Of Prince Edward

E. J. AGLESBY
T. K. MAHONEY
Of Charlottesville

JACK RATHBONE
CHARLES CARTER
H. P. CARR
Of Arlington

CHARLES JENNINGS
HARVEY WHITE
F. R. FORD
WILLIAM MC KENDREE
COLEMAN H. COLEY
Of Norfolk

DR. H. NORTON MASON
Of Richmond

NP 62-502

The article quoted CRAWFORD as saying that he was "pleased with the optimism and determination to keep Virginia's schools operating as they are now operating - on a racially segregated basis."

The article also reflects the committee will meet again at PENDLETON's call, and it was explained that the original nineteen members represent only a core, and that the group has not set any limit on its membership.

It is to be noted that Richmond under 5/5/58 communication furnished substantially the same information to the Bureau under appropriate letterhead memorandum, and for this reason, no effort is being made to incorporate this information in a letterhead memorandum.

III. Informants and Sources Available to Furnish Information

Continued efforts are being made to develop coverage in the organizations figuring prominently in the racial situation in the Norfolk Division.

✓a. Recently Bureau authority has been granted for interview with [redacted] in connection with DEFENDERS OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES.

✓a. [redacted] is a Source of Information. A request has also been submitted for Bureau authority to interview [redacted]

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b7D

IV. Brief Picture of the Racial Situation

Local newspapers reflect that lawyers for the plaintiffs in the desegregation cases at Newport News and Norfolk, Va., appeared in Federal Court, Norfolk, and petitioned judge to hear arguments for integration in the respective school systems. The date for hearing the arguments was set for 6/7/58.

- P -



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No

Norfolk, Virginia

May 15, 1958

**Re: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA**

In connection with the litigation concerning desegregation of public schools in Norfolk and Newport News, Virginia, it is to be noted that as of May 9, 1958, Norfolk Civil Docket #2214 and Newport News Civil Docket #489, both filed in U.S. District Clerk's Office, Norfolk, Virginia, reflect that no court action has been entered on these dockets since records of appeals were received from the Circuit Court of Appeals in October 1957.

The "Norfolk Virginian-Pilot" newspaper of May 7, 1958, contains an article entitled "Integration Notice Filed with Court". This article reflects that integration of Norfolk schools in September (1958) is the aim of a notice filed in U.S. District Court here (Norfolk), Tuesday (May 6, 1958).

The news article indicates that J. Hugo Madison, Negro attorney involved in the case, said that legal moves to begin in the District Court next Monday would seek a September school integration date.

The article indicates that, in effect, Judge Walter E. Hoffman will be asked Monday (May 12, 1958,) to schedule a date for a hearing on carrying out his school desegregation order of February 12, 1957. This motion will concern Norfolk schools only.

The newspaper article states that a desegregation ruling for Newport News, Virginia, schools - made by Judge Hoffman the day before the Norfolk decision - was not mentioned in the notice filed Tuesday, May 6, 1958.

The newspaper article continues in stating that in both decisions Judge Hoffman ordered desegregation by August 15, 1957, and the orders were stayed pending appeals, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Judge Hoffman's order, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused on October 21, 1957, to review the decision.

62-101087-49-34

ENCLOSURE



Re: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

The newspaper article reflects that when Judge Hoffman issued his desegregation decision, he said he would accept a gradual plan, if submitted in good faith by the School Board.

The notice filed Tuesday, May 6, 1958, according to the newspaper article, was addressed to the Attorney General, a Special Assistant to the Attorney General, City Attorney, and Special Counsel to the School Board and his associate. The notice was signed by Victor J. Ashe, Negro attorney for the plaintiffs, and Ashe is quoted as stating in his motion, "Take notice, I will move the Judge of the U.S. District Court ... to enter an order relating to the decision" in the Norfolk school case. *Va*

The newspaper article further indicates, "Judge Hoffman will not hear the motion on May 12th but will set a date on the motion today for argument."

The "Norfolk Virginian-Pilot" newspaper of May 8, 1958, contains an article entitled "Peninsula Integration Date Sought", which reflects that an attorney for the Negro plaintiffs announced Wednesday, May 7, 1958, he will ask a Federal Judge Monday (May 12, 1958,) to set a date for Newport News to begin desegregation of its public schools.

The article continues by stating that Attorney W. Hale Thompson said he had informed Federal District Court officials in Norfolk that he would ask Judge Walter E. Hoffman to set the desegregation date. Notice of his intent had been mailed to defense counsel, he stated, according to the article.

The May 12, 1958, issue of the "Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch" contains an article entitled "Fall Integration Move Gets Hearing June 7." The article reflects that a hearing on motion for September integration of Norfolk and Newport News public schools was held today (May 12, 1958,) for June 7 in Federal District Court. The date was set by Judge Walter E. Hoffman on request of attorneys for the Negroes seeking desegregation of schools of the two cities.

The article reflects that the attorneys came into court on the morning of May 12, 1958, and filed formal motion requesting that desegregation orders take effect August 15 (1958), for the September school term.

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

The article reflects that Victor J. Ashe was the attorney who filed the motion in the Norfolk case, and W. Hale Thompson filed the motion in the Newport News case.

The newspaper article continues that when Ashe asked for the new date, Judge Hoffman said he didn't "know that any action is needed on the part of the Court". He raised the point that his order of last year might have gone into effect when it was upheld by Appeals Courts. Ashe said, according to the article, that he thought that that might be true, but that he wanted the specific date to "clarify" the situation.

Another legal question raised was what effect the forthcoming consolidation of Newport News and Warwick might have on the order applying to Newport News schools.

Attorney W. Hale Thompson contended that the order calling for desegregation in the Newport News schools applied to the new consolidated city school system.

Judge Hoffman indicated he had no fixed ideas on the subject, and it was apparent that the issue would be a major one at the June 7, 1958, hearing, according to the news article.



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Norfolk, Virginia

May 15, 1958

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Another legal question raised was what effect the forthcoming consolidation of Newport News and Norwalk might have on the order applying to Newport News schools.

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Re: RACIAL SITUATION
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The article reflects that Victor J. Ashe was the attorney who filed the motion in the Norfolk case, and W. Hale Thompson filed the motion in the Newport News case.

The newspaper article continues that when Ashe asked for the new date, Judge Hoffman said he didn't "know that any action is needed on the part of the Court". He raised the point that his order of last year might have gone into effect when it was upheld by Appeals Courts. Ashe said, according to the article, that he thought that that might be true, but that he wanted the specific date to "clarify" the situation.

Another legal question raised was what effect the forthcoming consolidation of Newport News and Warwick might have on the order applying to Newport News schools.

Attorney W. Hale Thompson contended that the order calling for desegregation in the Newport News schools applied to the new consolidated city school system.

Judge Hoffman indicated he had no fixed ideas on the subject, and it was apparent that the issue would be a major one at the June 7, 1958, hearing, according to the news article.



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Norfolk, Virginia

May 15, 1958

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

In connection with the litigation concerning desegregation of public schools in Norfolk and Newport News, Virginia, it is to be noted that as of May 9, 1958, Norfolk Civil Docket #2214 and Newport News Civil Docket #489, both filed in U.S. District Clerk's Office, Norfolk, Virginia, reflect that no court action has been entered on these dockets since records of appeals were received from the Circuit Court of Appeals in October 1957.

The "Norfolk Virginian-Pilot" newspaper of May 7, 1958, contains an article entitled "Integration Notice Filed with Court". This article reflects that integration of Norfolk schools in September (1958) is the aim of a notice filed in U.S. District Court here (Norfolk), Tuesday (May 6, 1958).

The news article indicates that J. Hugo Madison, Negro attorney involved in the case, said that legal moves to begin in the District Court next Monday would seek a September school integration date.

The article indicates that, in effect, Judge Walter E. Hoffman will be asked Monday (May 12, 1958,) to schedule a date for a hearing on carrying out his school desegregation order of February 12, 1957. This motion will concern Norfolk schools only.

The newspaper article states that a desegregation ruling for Newport News, Virginia, schools - made by Judge Hoffman the day before the Norfolk decision - was not mentioned in the notice filed Tuesday, May 6, 1958.

The newspaper article continues in stating that in both decisions Judge Hoffman ordered desegregation by August 15, 1957, and the orders were stayed pending appeals, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Judge Hoffman's order, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused on October 21, 1957, to review the decision.

**Re: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA**

The newspaper article reflects that when Judge Hoffman issued his desegregation decision, he said he would accept a gradual plan, if submitted in good faith by the School Board.

The notice filed Tuesday, May 6, 1958, according to the newspaper article, was addressed to the Attorney General, a Special Assistant to the Attorney General, City Attorney, and Special Counsel to the School Board and his associate. The notice was signed by Victor J. Ashe, Negro attorney for the plaintiffs, and Ashe is quoted as stating in his motion, "Take notice, I will move the Judge of the U.S. District Court ... to enter an order relating to the decision" in the Norfolk school case.

The newspaper article further indicates, "Judge Hoffman will not hear the motion on May 12th but will set a date on the motion today for argument."

The "Norfolk Virginian-Pilot" newspaper of May 8, 1958, contains an article entitled "Massive Integration Date Sought", which reflects that an attorney for the Negro plaintiffs announced Wednesday, May 7, 1958, he will ask a Federal Judge Monday (May 12, 1958,) to set a date for Newport News to begin desegregation of its public schools.

The article continues by stating that Attorney W. Hale Thompson said he had informed Federal District Court officials in Norfolk that he would ask Judge Walter K. Hoffman to set the desegregation date. Notice of his intent had been mailed to defense counsel, he stated, according to the article.

The May 12, 1958, issue of the "Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch" contains an article entitled "Full Integration Move Gets Hearing June 7." The article reflects that a hearing on motion for September integration of Norfolk and Newport News public schools was held today (May 12, 1958,) for June 7 in Federal District Court. The date was set by Judge Walter K. Hoffman on request of attorneys for the Negroes seeking desegregation of schools of the two cities.

The article reflects that the attorneys came into court on the morning of May 12, 1958, and filed formal motion requesting that desegregation orders take effect August 13 (1958), for the September school term.

Re: RACIAL SITUATION
STATE OF VIRGINIA

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

Subject: MASON, HATLEY NORTON Sr.

Virginia Citizens Act To Meet Integration

RICHMOND, Va., May 3 (AP) —A 19-man permanent committee to help localities threatened with integration to set up and operate private schools was established here today.

The group named itself the Co-ordination Committee to Maintain Efficient Education in Virginia, and elected Lewis S. Pendleton, jr., a Richmond attorney, as chairman.

The organization said it will aid parent-teacher associations or any other group which may want to establish private schools in event public facilities are closed.

Reporters were barred from the four-hour session, which ended early tonight, but the group issued a statement saying that "several avenues of future action were explored with considerable optimism."

Robert L. Crawford of Farmville, who had called the meeting, said the avenues included the possibility of teaching private school children over closed-circuit television.

Prince Edward Is Model

The committee said that at the outset it will work with organizations from the five Virginia localities under Federal court orders to desegregate their schools. These communities are Charlottesville, Newport News, Norfolk, and Prince Edward and Arlington counties.

A private educational corporation was established several years ago in Prince Edward, and a similar organization is being formed in Arlington. The Prince Edward Corporation apparently will serve as a model for other groups seeking to establish similar corporations.

Mr. Crawford said representatives of a number of counties not yet affected by integration cases have visited Prince Edward, and several officials of the Prince Edward corporation have spoken to groups in other counties.

Arlington Members Attend

"This evidences their interest in preparing themselves," Mr. Crawford said. The permanent committee's activities probably will spread into the communities not yet involved in litigation, he said.

Most of the committee mem-

bers who attended the meeting are residents of the five localities which have been ordered by the courts to desegregate their schools.

Those who attended the meeting besides Mr. Crawford and Mr. Pendleton were J. Barry Wall and Charles W. Glenn of Prince Edward, E. J. Siegelby and T. K. Mahone of Charlottesville, Jack Math-bone, Charles W. Carter and H. P. Eaden of Arlington, Worth Martin, Anderson Smith, William McL. Ferguson and Richard McMurray of Newport News, Charles Jennings, Harvey White, E. F. Ford, William McKendree and Coleman H. Hays of Norfolk, and Dr. H. Norton Mason of Richmond.

The committee will meet again at Mr. Pendleton's call.

Mr. Crawford said he was delighted with the attendance at the meeting and "pleased with the optimism and determination to keep Virginia's schools operating as they are now operating—on a racially segregated basis."

Legislators In Accord

Representatives William M. Brock and Watkins M. Abbitt met Mr. Crawford at the close of the meeting and said they were in accord with the objectives of the committee. Mr. Abbitt said, "I am sure the organization will be of tremendous help to localities and the people involved."

Neither Mr. Tuck nor Mr. Abbitt attended the session, but both expressed hope that the

Federal courts would not take any action which would precipitate the closing of public schools.

Mr. Crawford said the committee is anxious to maintain public schools. He said that the setting up of a private school would come only "as a last resort," and that communities ought to think of the necessity in terms of one school or even one classroom.

"If parents would think of taking care of a grade of 30 children, it doesn't seem so insurmountable," Mr. Crawford said.

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